



Transportation Update

January 2002

Recession Impacts Transportation Funding

The federal government recently announced that it expects transportation revenues to be less than originally anticipated as a result of the national recession. California could see \$700 million less this coming federal fiscal year -- about a 25% reduction from the current year. Congresswoman Tauscher has called on the President to use the cash reserves in the federal highway trust fund, estimated to be \$18.6 billion, to backfill this drop in gas tax revenues, thereby keeping vital transportation projects on track and putting dollars to work in the economy.

CTC Asks Regions to Reschedule Projects

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has asked the regions to review the timing of projects submitted for the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Very little revenue is available to accommodate new projects in the first two years of the STIP – 2002-03 and 03-04. This problem will likely delay some projects that were recently approved by the CMA. CMA staff is reviewing the timing of projects and will be providing a recommendation to the CMA Board in February. For further information please contact the CMA offices.

Air Quality and Transportation

An air quality “conformity lapse” occurred on January 21, 2002. The regional agencies responsible for transportation and air quality planning are working to secure the necessary approvals from the US EPA that will end the lapse. This lapse could last several weeks to several months. The

longer the duration of the lapse the more likely transportation projects will be delayed. Environmental interests have threatened to sue EPA if it takes the necessary steps to end the lapse without fully addressing their issues. A lawsuit would have unknown consequences on the duration of the lapse. According to information provided by MTC the following Alameda County projects are affected:

- Altamont Commuter Express track improvements
- Route 84 expressway in Fremont and Union City
- I-880 Carpool lanes in southern Alameda County
- I-880 interchange improvements in Oakland
- Eastbound I-80 carpool lane from Bay Bridge toll plaza to Emeryville
- Dublin Blvd. widening, Dublin
- Greenville Rd. widening, Livermore
- Industrial Parkway improvements, Hayward
- Osgood Rd. widening, Fremont
- North Livermore Ave./I-580 interchange modification, Livermore
- San Ramon Rd./I-580 improvements, Dublin
- Fallon Rd.-El Charro Rd./I-580 interchange improvements, Dublin

CMA staff is communicating with the project sponsors that may be impacted.

Proposition 42 Will Increase Transportation Funding

Proposition 42 on the March 2002 ballot will permanently dedicate the sales tax on gasoline to transportation. It will provide \$5.75 billion for transportation projects and

services in the Bay Area over the next 25 years according to MTC. The CMA is counting on this source of revenue for \$440 million in projects – referred to as Tier 2 of the 2001 Countywide Transportation Plan.

CMA to Review its Long Range Plan if Proposition 42 Passes

Proposition 42 will provide funding for projects in Tier 2 of the CMA's Countywide Transportation Plan. Since the CMA adopted Tier 2, MTC has approved its Regional Transit Expansion Policy, and the State has released its draft Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP). At its January meeting, the Board decided to review its adopted Tier 2 program in the context of these recent actions by MTC and the State, if Proposition 42 is approved by the voters in March. This review is aimed at making any necessary adjustments to the Tier 2 investment program.

CMA to Survey Congestion Levels this Spring

Every two years the CMA surveys the levels of congestion on principle arterials and the freeways in Alameda County, as part of its Congestion Management Program. The work will begin this spring with a report expected to be complete in summer 2002.

Deadlines to Note

CMA Transportation Improvement Program
\$17 million remains to be programmed. Projects in the CMA's adopted Group II list will again be considered for funding in April 2002. Sponsors wishing to have their Group II projects considered in April must submit documentation to the CMA by March 15th.

Federal Funding Programs – Delivery Deadlines
Projects programmed with Cycle II TEA-21 funds must have obligated these funds by September

30, 2002. Failure to comply with this deadline could result in the loss of funds programmed to the project. Sponsors with projects that may have problems with this deadline should contact CMA staff immediately.

Upcoming Meetings

February	2	CMA Board
		Workshop/Retreat
	5	CMA Technical Advisory Committee
	8	San Pablo Ave Policy Advisory & I-880 Steering Committee Combined Mtg.
	11	CMA Administration & Legislation Committee
	11	CMA Plans & Programs Committee
	14	I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	25	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	27/28	CTC (Sacramento)
	28	CMA Board Meeting
	28	I-580 Public Workshop
March	5	CMA Technical Advisory Committee
	11	CMA Administration & Legislation Committee
	11	CMA Plans & Programs Committee
	14	San Pablo Ave Policy Advisory Committee
	tbd	I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	tbd	I-680 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	tbd	I-880 Corridor Steering Committee
	18	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	28	CMA Board Meeting

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